

REMARKS

Formalities and Status of the Claims

In the Office Action dated April 17, 2004, all claims (1-30) were rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Independent claims 1, 12, 18, 21, and 22 are hereby amended. Claims 25-30 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, after entry of the amendment, claims 1-24 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Telephone Interview with Examiner Poinvil (July 12, 2004)

The undersigned, Applicants' representative, thanks Examiner Poinvil for the courtesy extended during the telephone interview on July 12, 2004.

During the interview, the claims were discussed in view of the applied references. Applicants' representative noted that Abelow does not teach or suggest systems or methods that, "locally" on a computer system, collect and analyze "usage data," and communicate from the computer system to a user of the system "an availability of product functionality that is within the set of locally available functions, but not within the subset of software product functionality when said at least one usage data pattern was identified," as recited, for example, in amended claim 1.

For at least this reason, and in view of the amendments to claim 1, and the remaining independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable in view of the disclosures of US Patent No. 5,999,908, to Abelow, and U.S. Patent No. 5,499,295, to Cooper.

Applicants' dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as those provided above, and include additional bases for patentability. For example, dependent claim 7, which depends from independent claim 1, recites the use of a fuzzy algorithm on the collected data, and provides added reasons for patentability of the claim.

In view of the foregoing, examination and a favorable decision on the claims is earnestly requested.

No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, please charge any fees or

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credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

Date:

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